

Memorandum for the D/CI

Subject: Air Force Request to Declassify CIA Material on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)

1. The following is a brief review of events pertinent to the subject matter.

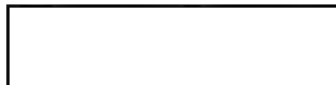
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6. In as much as a sanitized version of the 1953 report had been released to the Air Force in 1957, we requested clarification in a meeting with an Air Force representative on 19 July. (See attachment C) During this meeting the Air Force representative showed us a USAF copy of the 1953 CIA report. It was stamped unclassified, indicating that the classification had been changed sometime prior to 19 July.

7. A new request dated 27 July was prepared by USAF. (See attachment D)  
\*USAF Declass/Release Instructions On File\*

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2. In 1953 OSI convened a panel of scientists to consider reports on unidentified flying objects and to advise us on the potential threat to national security. This resulted in a report classified "secret."

3. In 1957 following some publicity on CIA involvement in the UFO problem, the USAF requested and obtained an unclassified version of the conclusions of the 1953 report. That version avoided mentioning CIA involvement. (See attachment A)

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5. On 12 July 1966 USAF again requested declassification of the 1953 report. (See attachment B) Prior publicity was given as justification for downgrading.

6. In as much as a sanitized version of the 1953 report had been released to the Air Force in 1957, we requested clarification in a meeting with an Air Force representative on 19 July. (See attachment C) During this meeting the Air Force representative showed us a USAF copy of the 1953 CIA report. It was stamped unclassified, indicating that the classification had been changed sometime prior to 19 July.

7. A new request dated 27 July was prepared by USAF. (See attachment D)

8. On 10 August the Air Force representative called to ask about the status of our reply. She stated that Mr. John Lear~~7~~, a newsman, had published an article on UFO's in the Saturday Review. (See attachment E, paragraph 3) This was the first indication during the recent interchanges that the USAF wanted to release the complete CIA report to the public.

9. On 15 August a declassified version of the complete 1953 report was forwarded to the Air Force. (See attachment F)

10. Prior to USAF receipt of the OSI reply, the Air Force called twice on 16 August to determine the status of our response and to ask about the extent of the sanitizing.

11. They called again on 18 August to request return of the USAF copy of the CIA report which had been sent to us for sanitizing. (See attachment G)

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[redacted]  
Executive Officer

OSI/DSD/ACMB: [redacted] ch/7621 (1 September 66)

**FOR CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY**

23 AUG 1966

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:**

**SUBJECT:** Air Force Request to Declassify CIA UFO Report

**REFERENCE:** 1. Memo to Ch/DSD dated 20 July 1966  
2. Memo for Record dated 12 August 1966

1. Mrs. Sara Hunt of the Air Force Office of Information called the undersigned twice on 16 August and once on 18 August.

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2. The first time she asked if our response had gotten out and I told her it had. She requested the phone number of the office responsible for issuing the reply and I gave her [ ] number.

3. The second time Mrs. Hunt called she wanted to know the extent of the deletions, if any. I told her that, at least, reference to CIA and names of CIA employees were removed, and that I had heard that some additional sanitizing probably was done in the processing of the reply.

4. The <sup>second</sup> ~~fourth~~ call was to state that Air Force had received our response, and to ask for the return of their copy of the CIA report which had been forwarded to us with the request for declassification.

STATINTL

**Distribution:**

Orig & 1 - ACMB/DSD/OSI  
1 - DSD/OSI  
1 - EO/OSI

OSI/DSD/ACMB: [ ] :sjm/7621 (23 Aug 66)

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AFSC)  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, OHIO 45433



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: TDETR

SUBJECT: Declassification of the "Report of the Scientific Panel  
on Unidentified Flying Objects"

JUL 12 1988

TO: Central Intelligence Agency  
Deputy Director for Scientific Intelligence

1. Request that consideration be given to declassify the "Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects", dated 17 January 1953.
2. This particular report has been referred to in a number of articles by the news media and by some of the more vocal UFO hobby clubs.
3. Request that consideration be given to declassifying the report to "UNCLASSIFIED" or "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY".

FOR THE COMMANDER

*Eric T. de Jongheere*  
ERIC T. de JONCKHEERE, Colonel, USAF  
Deputy for Technology and Subsystems

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

INTERNAL USE ONLY

20 JUL 1966

(13)

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Defensive Systems Division/OSI

SUBJECT: Air Force Request to Declassify an OSI Paper on UFO's

REFERENCE: CIA/OSI "Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects" dated February 1953

25X1A

25X1A

1. Mrs. Sara B. Hunt, of the Office of Information, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, visited [ ] on 19 July 1966 to discuss an Air Force request to declassify the referenced report.

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2. Mrs. Hunt indicated that this request was triggered by the 12 May "CBS Reports" program. [ ] Chairman of the panel, was on the show and reportedly made sufficient references to CIA involvement in UFO analysis to cause a press reaction.

25X1A

25X1A

3. A review of the documents supplied by Mrs. Hunt showed that [ ] had approved a similar Air Force request in December 1957. This resulted in a sanitized version of the original consultants' report. This report presented most of the conclusions but it did not refer to the original meeting minutes, case histories, or indicate CIA involvement. [ ] has OSI copies of the reports and correspondence).

25X1A

4. Although the Air Force request now in OSI does not request additional declassification, Mrs. Hunt expressed the view that this was intended. Mrs. Hunt said that the Air Force is not trying to declassify all U.S. Government work on UFO's.

5. Inasmuch as my review of the original material showed that significant deletions would be required for further declassification, I suggested that Mrs. Hunt ask the Air Force originator to submit a second request, if they wanted declassification of additional material from the minutes and case histories.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**INTERNAL USE ONLY**

**SUBJECT: Air Force Request to Declassify an OSI Paper on  
WFO's**

6. Mrs. Hunt said that a more specific request would  
be sent to us in the near future.

25X1A 1. [ ] is holding the recent Air Force request  
until Mrs. Hunt contacts us.

25X1A



**Distribution:**

Orig & 1 - Addressee  
2 - DD/OSI  
2 - ACME/DSD/OSI

OSI/DSD/ACME: [ ] sje/7621 (20 July 66)

25X1A

**INTERNAL USE ONLY**

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



12A  
ADPLY TO  
ATTN OF: SAFOIC

JUL 27 1966

SUBJECT: Declassification of "Report of Meetings of Scientific Advisory Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects Convened by Office of Scientific Intelligence, CIA, January 14-18, 1953"

TO: Central Intelligence Agency  
Deputy Director for Scientific Intelligence  
Attn:   
Washington, D. C.

25X1A

1. Request your consideration in declassifying subject report which includes the "Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects", dated January 17, 1953. A copy of this document is attached for your convenience.
2. Attached for further information are a letter from CIA to the Air Force Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence dated December 20, 1957, and a copy of a letter with attachments from Foreign Technology Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, dated July 12, 1966. Request all attachments be returned to this office.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

GERALD R. JORGENSEN  
Colonel, USAF  
Chief  
Community Relations Division  
Office of Information

- 3 Atch
1. Rpt of Mtgs of Scientific Advis Panel on UFOs, convened by Office of Scientific Intelligence, CIA, Jan 14-18, 1953
  2. Ltr, CIA to AF, 20 Dec 1957
  3. Ltr, FTD to CIA, Jul 12, 1966

THIS MESSAGE AND ANY ATTACHMENTS (OR NOT ATTACHED)  
THE DECLASSIFICATION OF THIS CORRESPONDENCE WILL  
BE HANDLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAS 100, AIR 200-1.



FOR CIA INTERNAL USE ONLY

12 AUG 1966

(12)  
MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD:

SUBJECT: Air Force Request to Declassify CIA  
UFO Report

REFERENCE: Memo for Chief, DSD/OSI, dated 20 July 66

1. Miss Sara Hunt of Air Force Office of Information phoned on 10 August to determine the status of our response to their request.
2. Upon instructions from Dr. Walter Mackey I told her that the declassified report was being retyped and would be forwarded soon. Miss Hunt's restraint was admirable. She pressed gently for a more specific response, which was not forthcoming.
3. Miss Hunt concluded by saying that Mr. John Leard, a newsman, had an article on UFO's in last week's Saturday Review. She stated that they wanted to show the new version to him as soon as it was declassified.

D. B. STEVENSON

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - ACMB/DSD/OSI  
2 - DSD/OSI

OSI/DSD/ACMB:DBStevenson:sjm/7621 (11 Aug 66)

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15 AUG 1966

Colonel Gerald E. Jorgenson  
Chief, Community Relations Division  
Office of Information  
Department of the Air Force  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: SAFOLC

Dear Colonel Jorgenson:

Consideration has been given to your request of 27 July 1966 for the declassification of the "Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects." The Office of Scientific Intelligence feels that the report, as originally drafted, cannot be downgraded. As an alternative, an unclassified version has been prepared which omits names of personnel and participating organizations, and we are agreeable to the release of this version. It should be noted that permission for release has not been obtained from persons or organizations involved in the original panel report, and that the panel members themselves agreed only to the release of the edited summary and conclusions indicated by Mr. P. G. Strong in his 29 December 1957 memorandum to AFMIA.

We are most anxious that further publicity not be given to the information that the panel was sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency. Further, we cannot authorize the listing of personnel participating in the discussions in any unclassified release.

Sincerely,

*Karl H. Weber*

Karl H. Weber  
Deputy Director of  
Scientific Intelligence

Distribution

Orig. and 1 - Addressee  
2 - DD/OSI  
2 - IPS/OSI

9

## COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS OF UFO PANEL

### General.

The Panel Members were impressed with the lack of sound data in the great majority of case histories. Among the case histories of significant sightings discussed in detail were the following:

Bellefontaine, Ohio (1 August 1952); Tremonton, Utah (2 July 1952); Great Falls, Montana (15 August 1950); Yaak, Montana (1 September 1952); Washington, D.C. area (19 July 1952); and Haneda A.F.B., Japan (5 August 1952), Port Huron, Michigan (29 July 1952); and Presque Isle, Maine (10 October 1952).

After review and discussion of these cases (and about 15 others, in less detail), the Panel concluded that reasonable explanations could be suggested for most sightings and "by deduction and scientific method it could be induced (given additional data) that other cases might be explained in a similar manner". The Panel pointed out that because of the brevity of some sightings (e.g., 2-3 seconds) and the inability of the witnesses to express themselves clearly (semantics) that conclusive explanations could not be expected for every case reported. Furthermore, it was considered that, normally, it would be a great waste of effort to try to solve most of the sightings, unless such

action would benefit a training and educational program (see below). The writings of Charles Fort were referenced to show that "strange things in the sky" had been recorded for hundreds of years. It appeared obvious that there was no single explanation for a majority of the things seen.

On Lack of Danger.

The Panel concluded unanimously that there was no evidence of a direct threat to national security in the objects sighted. Instances of "Foo Fighters" were cited. These were unexplained phenomena sighted by aircraft pilots during World War II in both European and Far East theaters of operation wherein "balls of light" would fly near or with the aircraft and maneuver rapidly. They were believed to be electrostatic (similar to St. Elmo's fire) or electromagnetic phenomena or possibly light reflections from ice crystals in the air, but their exact cause or nature was never defined. If the term "flying saucers" had been popular in 1943-1945, these objects would have been so labeled.

Air Force Reporting System.

It was the Panel's opinion that some of the Air Force concern over UFO's (notwithstanding Air Defense Command anxiety over fast radar tracks) was probably caused by public pressure. The result today is that the Air Force

has instituted a fine channel for receiving reports of nearly anything anyone sees in the sky and fails to understand. This has been particularly encouraged in popular articles on this and other subjects, such as space travel and science fiction. The result is the mass receipt of low-grade reports which tend to overload channels of communication with material quite irrelevant to hostile objects that might some day appear. The Panel agreed generally that this mass of poor-quality reports containing little, if any, scientific data was of no value. Quite the opposite, it was possibly dangerous in having a military service foster public concern in "nocturnal meandering lights". The implication being, since the interested agency was military, that these objects were or might be potential direct threats to national security. Accordingly, the need for deemphasization made itself apparent. Comments on a possible educational program are enumerated below.

It was the opinion of one of the Panel members that the "saucer" problem had been found to be different in nature from the detection and investigation of German V-1 and V-2 guided missiles prior to their operational use in World War II. In this 1943-1944 intelligence operation (CROSSBOW), there was excellent intelligence, and by June

1944 there was material evidence of the existence of "hardware" obtained from crashed vehicles in Sweden. This evidence gave the investigating team a basis upon which to operate. The absence of any "hardware" resulting from unexplained UFO sightings lends a "will-of-the-wisp" nature to the problem. The results of the investigation, to date, strongly indicate that no evidence of hostile act or danger exists. Furthermore, the current reporting system would have little value in the case of detection of enemy attack by conventional aircraft or guided missiles; under such conditions "hardware" would be available almost at once.

Artifacts of Extraterrestrial Origin.

It was interesting to note that none of the members of the Panel were loath to accept that this earth might be visited by extraterrestrial intelligence beings of some sort, some day. What they did not find was any evidence that related the objects sighted to space travelers. One of the Panel members, in his presentation, showed how he had eliminated each of the known and probable causes of sightings leaving him "extra-terrestrial" as the only one remaining in many cases. His background as an aeronautical engineer and technical intelligence officer could not be slighted. However, the Panel could not accept any of

the cases cited by him because they were raw, unevaluated reports. Terrestrial explanations of the sightings were suggested in some cases, and in others the time of sighting was so short as to cause suspicion of visual impressions. It was noted by others of the Panel members that extra-terrestrial artifacts, if they did exist, are no cause for alarm; rather, they are in the realm of natural phenomena subject to scientific study, just as cosmic rays were at the time of their discovery 20 to 30 years ago. This was an attitude in which another of the Panel members did not concur, as he felt that such artifacts would be of immediate and great concern not only to the U.S. but to all countries. (Nothing like a common threat to unite peoples!) It was noted that present astronomical knowledge of the solar system makes the existence of intelligence<sup>+</sup> beings (as we know the term) elsewhere than on the earth extremely unlikely, and the concentration of their attention by any controllable means confined to any one continent of the earth quite preposterous.

Tremonton, Utah, Sighting.

This case was considered significant because of the excellent documentary evidence in the form of Kodachrome motion picture films (about 1600 frames). The Panel



studied these films, the case history, ATIC's interpretation, and received a briefing by representatives of the USN Photo Interpretation Laboratory on their analysis of the film. This team had expended (at Air Force request) approximately 1000 man-hours of professional and sub-professional time in the preparation of graph plots of individual frames of the film, showing apparent and relative motion of objects and variation in their light intensity. It was the opinion of the P.I.L. representatives that the objects sighted were not birds, balloons or aircraft, were "not reflections because there was no blinking while passing through 60° of arc" and were, therefore, "self-luminous". Plots of motion and variation in light intensity of the objects were displayed. While the Panel Members were impressed by the evident enthusiasm, industry and extent of effort of the P.I.L. team, they would not accept the conclusions reached. Some of the reasons for this were as follows:

- a. A semi-spherical object can readily produce a reflection of sunlight without "blinking" through 60° of arc travel.
- b. Although no data was available on the "albedo" of birds or polyethylene balloons

in bright sunlight, the apparent motions, sizes and brightnesses of the objects were considered strongly to suggest birds, particularly after the Panel viewed a short film showing high reflectivity of seagulls in bright sunlight.

c. P.I.L. description of the objects sighted as "circular, bluish-white" in color would be expected in cases of specular reflections of sunlight from convex surfaces where the brilliance of the reflection would obscure other portions of the object.

d. Objects in the Great Falls case were believed to have probably been aircraft, and the bright lights such reflections.

e. There was no valid reason for the attempt to relate the objects in the Tremonton sighting to those in the Great Falls sighting. This may have been due to misunderstanding in their directive. The objects in the Great Falls sighting are strongly suspected of being reflections of aircraft known to have been in the area.

f. The intensity change in the Tremonton lights was too great for acceptance of the P.I.L. hypothesis that the apparent motion and changing

intensity of the lights indicated extremely high speed in small orbital paths.

g. Apparent lack of guidance of investigators by those familiar with UFO reports and explanations.

h. Analysis of light intensity of objects made from duplicate rather than original film. The original film was noted to have a much lighter background (affecting relative brightness of object) and the objects appeared much less bright.

i. Method of obtaining data of light intensity appeared faulty because of unsuitability of equipment and questionable assumptions in making averages of readings.

j. No data had been obtained on the sensitivity of Kodachrome film to light of various intensities using the same camera type at the same lens openings.

k. Hand "jitter" frequencies (obtainable from early part of Tremonton film) were not removed from the plots of the "single pass plots" at the end of the film.

The Panel believed strongly that the data available on this sighting was sufficient for positive identification if further data is obtained by photographing polyethylene "pillow" balloons released near the site under similar weather conditions, checking bird flight and reflection characteristics with competent ornithologists and calculating apparent "G" forces acting upon objects from their apparent tracks. It was concluded that the results of such tests would probably lead to creditable explanations of value in an educational or training program. However, the Panel noted that the cost in technical manpower effort required to follow up and explain every one of the thousand or more reports received through channels each year (1,900 in 1952) could not be justified. It was felt that there will always be sightings, for which complete data is lacking, that can only be explained with disproportionate effort and with a long time delay, if at all. The long delay in explaining a sighting tends to eliminate any intelligence value. The educational or training program should have as a major purpose the elimination of popular feeling that every sighting, no matter how poor the data, must be explained in detail. Attention should be directed to the requirement among scientists that a new phenomena, to be accepted, must be completely and convincingly documented.

In other words, the burden of proof is on the sighter, not the explainer.

Potential Related Dangers.

The Panel Members were in agreement that although evidence of any direct threat from these sightings was wholly lacking, related dangers might well exist resulting from:

- a. Misidentification of actual enemy artifacts by defense personnel.
- b. Overloading of emergency reporting channels with "false" information ("noise to signal ratio").
- c. Subjectivity of public to mass hysteria and greater vulnerability to possible enemy psychological warfare.

The first two of these problems may seriously affect the Air Defense intelligence system, and should be studied by experts, possibly under ADC. If UFO's become discredited in a reaction to the "flying saucer" scare, or if reporting channels are saturated with false and poorly documented reports, our capability of detecting hostile activity will be reduced. More competent screening or filtering of reported sightings at or near the source is

required, and this can best be accomplished by an educational program.

Geographic Locations of Unexplained Sightings.

The map prepared by ATIC showing geographic locations of officially reported unexplained sightings (1952 only) was examined by the Panel. This map showed clusters in certain strategic areas such as Los Alamos. This might be explained on the basis of 24-hour watchful guard and awareness of security measures near such locations. On the other hand, there had been no sightings in the vicinity of sensitive related AE establishments while there were occasionally multiple cases of unexplained sightings in non-strategic areas. Furthermore, there appeared to be no logical relationship to population centers. The Panel could find no ready explanation for these clusters. It was noted, however, that if terrestrial artifacts were to be observed, it would be likely that they would be seen first near foreign areas rather than central U.S.

Instrumentation to Obtain Data.

The Panel was of the opinion that the present ATIC program to place 100 inexpensive 35 mm. stereo cameras (Videon Cameras) in the hands of various airport control tower operators would probably produce little valuable

data related to UFO's. However, it was recognized that such action would tend to allay public concern in the subject until an educational program had taken effect. It was believed that procurement of these cameras was partly the result of public pressure in July 1952. With the poor results of the year-long Project TWINKLE program of 24-hour instrumentation watch (two frames of film showing nothing distinguishable), a widespread program of skywatching would not be expected to yield much direct data of value.

There was considerable discussion of a possible "sky patrol" by amateur astronomers and by wide-angle cameras. It was pointed out that at present a considerable fraction of the sky is now -- and has been for many years -- under surveillance every clear night in several meteor and aurora observing programs as well as sky mapping programs at the various locations listed below. Although the attention of these astronomers is largely directed toward identified rather than unidentified objects, no case of any striking unidentified object is known to the Panel. Such an object would most certainly be reported if found on patrol plates.

A case was cited where an astronomer refused to interrupt his exposure in order to photograph an alleged sighting in a different part of the sky, suggesting that if

a program of watching could be an adjunct of planned astronomical programs, little cost would be involved and that the trained astronomical personnel might photograph a sighting of an unidentified object.

It was agreed by the Panel that no government-sponsored program of optical nation-wide sky patrol is worthwhile at the present time, and that the encouragement of amateur astronomers to undertake such a program might have the adverse effect of over-emphasizing "flying saucer" stories in the public mind. However, the issue of radar-scope cameras for recording peculiar radar echoes would serve several purposes, including the better understanding of radar interference as well as identification of UFO's.

Radar Problem of Mutual Interference.

This characteristic problem of radar operation wherein the pulse signal (of approximately the same frequency) from station A may be picked up on the screen of station B and show as a high-speed track or series of dots was recognized to have probably caused a number of UFO reports. This problem was underlined by information received indicating ADC concern in solving this problem of signal identification before service use of very high-speed aircraft or guided missiles (1955-1956). One



Panel member believed that one answer to this problem was the use of a "doppler filter" in the receiving circuit. Another suggested that the problem might be better solved by the use of a "controlled jitter" wherein the operator receiving "very fast tracks" (on the order of 1000-10,000 mph) would operate a circuit which would alter slightly his station's pulse frequency rate. If the signal received on the screen had been caused by mutual interference with another station, the track would now show itself at a different distance from the center of the screen, if it still appeared at all. Such a technical solution was thought to be simpler and would cost much less than a "doppler filter".

Unexplained Cosmic Ray Phenomena.

Two reported cases were examined: one at Palomar Mountain, California, in October 1949, when cosmic ray counters went "off scale for a few seconds", apparently while a "V" of flying saucers was observed visually; and two, a series of observations by the "Los Alamos Bird Watchers Association" from August 1950 to January 1951, when cosmic ray coincidence counters behaved queerly. Circuit diagrams and records were available for the latter, and a Panel member was also quickly to point out that the recorded data were undoubtedly due to instrumental effects

that would have been recognized as such by more experienced observers.

The implication that radioactive effects were correlated with unidentified flying objects in these two cases was, therefore, rejected by the Panel.

Educational Program.

The Panel's concept of a broad educational program integrating efforts of all concerned agencies was that it should have two major aims: training and "debunking".

The training aim would result in proper recognition of unusually illuminated objects (e.g., balloons, aircraft reflections) as well as natural phenomena (meteors, fireballs, mirages, noctilucent clouds). Both visual and radar recognition are concerned. There would be many levels in such education from enlisted personnel to command and research personnel. Relative emphasis and degree of explanation of different programs would correspond to the categories of duty (e.g., radar operators; pilots; control tower operators; Ground Observer Corps personnel; and officers and enlisted men in other categories). This training should result in a marked reduction in reports caused by misidentification and resultant confusion.

The "debunking" aim would result in reduction in public interest in "flying saucers" which today evokes a

strong psychological reaction. This education could be accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures, and popular articles. Basis of such education would be actual case histories which had been puzzling at first but later explained. As in the case of conjuring tricks, there is much less stimulation if the "secret" is known. Such a program should tend to reduce the current gullibility of the public and consequently their susceptibility to clever hostile propaganda.

Members of the Panel had various suggestions related to the planning of such an educational program. It was felt strongly that psychologists familiar with mass psychology should advise on the nature and extent of the program. Also, someone familiar with mass communication techniques, perhaps an advertising expert, would be helpful. The teaching techniques used for aircraft identification during the past war were cited as an example of a similar educational task. The amateur astronomers in the U.S. might be a potential source of enthusiastic talent "to spread the gospel". It was believed that business clubs, high schools, colleges, and television stations would all be pleased to cooperate in the showing of documentary type motion pictures if prepared in an interesting manner.

The use of true cases showing first the "mystery" and then the "explanations" would be forceful.

To plan and execute such a program, the Panel believed was no mean task. The current investigatory group at ATIC would, of necessity, have to be closely integrated for support with respect to not only the historical cases but the current ones. Recent cases are probably much more susceptible to explanation than older ones; first, because of ATIC's experience and, secondly, their knowledge of most plausible explanations. The Panel believed that some expansion of the ATIC effort would certainly be required to support such a program. It was believed inappropriate to state exactly how large a Table of Organization would be required.

The Panel believed that, with ATIC's support, the educational program of "training and debunking" outlined above might be required for a minimum of one and one-half to two years. At the end of this time, the dangers related to "flying saucers" should have been greatly reduced if not eliminated. Cooperation from other military services and agencies concerned (e.g., Federal Civil Defense Administration) would be a necessity. In investigating significant cases (such as the Tremonton, Utah, sighting), controlled experiments might be required. An example would be the

photographing of "pillow balloons" at different distances under similar weather conditions at the site.

The help of one or two psychologists and writers and a subcontractor to produce training films would be necessary in addition. The Panel considered that ATIC's efforts, temporarily expanded as necessary, could be most useful in implementing any action taken as a result of its recommendations. Experience and records in ATIC would be of value in both the public educational and service training program envisaged. At least one Panel member was of the opinion that after public gullibility lessened and the service organizations, such as ADC, had been trained to sift out the more readily explained spurious sightings, there would still be a role for a very modest-sized ATIC section to cope with the residuum of items of possible scientific intelligence value. This section should concentrate on energetically following up those cases which seemed to indicate the evidence of unconventional enemy artifacts. Reports of such artifacts would be expected to arise mainly from Western outposts in far closer proximity to the Iron Curtain than Lubbock, Texas!

#### Unofficial Investigating Groups.

The Panel took cognizance of the existence of such groups as the "Civilian Flying Saucer Investigators"

(Los Angeles) and the "Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (Wisconsin)". It was believed that such organizations should be watched because of their potentially great influence on mass thinking if widespread sightings should occur. The apparent irresponsibility and the possible use of such groups for subversive purposes should be kept in mind.

Increase in Number of Sightings.

The consensus of the Panel was, based upon the history of the subject, that the number of sightings could be reasonably expected to increase again this summer.

*BEST COPY*  
*Available*

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# REPORT OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS

(S)

The Panel of Experts was impressed (as have been others, including the Joint Chiefs of Staff) by the lack of sound data in the great majority of the sightings; also, in the lack of speedy follow-up due primarily to the lack of staff and limited facilities of the AFSS section concerned. The Panel also noted the lack of significant sightings discussed in detail in the following:

Windsor, Ohio (2 August 1952); Tremonton, Utah (2 July 1952); Great Falls, Montana (15 August 1950); Yak, Montana (2 September 1952); Washington, D. C. area (19 July 1952); and Hancock A.F.B., Oregon (5 August 1952); Port Huron, Michigan (29 July 1952); and Presque Isle, Maine (10 October 1952).

After review and discussion of these cases (and about 15 others, in more detail), the Panel concluded that reasonable explanations could be suggested for most sightings and "by deduction and scientific method it could be induced (given additional data) that other cases might be explained in a similar manner". The Panel pointed out that because of the brevity of some sightings (e.g. 2-3 seconds) and the inability of the witnesses to express themselves clearly (semantically) that conclusive explanations could not be expected for every case reported. Furthermore, it was considered that, normally, it would be a great waste of effort to try to solve most of the sightings, unless such action would entail a training and educational program (see below). The writings of Charles Fort were referenced to show

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Source: Information



## Security Information

that "strange things in the sky" had been recorded for hundreds of years. It appeared obvious that there was no single explanation for a majority of the things seen. The presence of radar and astronomical specialists on the Panel proved of value at once in their confident recognition of phenomena related to their fields. It was apparent that specialists in such additional fields as psychology, meteorology, aerodynamics, ornithology and military air operations would extend the ability of the Panel to recognize many more categories of little-known phenomena. *del*

ON PART OF MATTER

The Panel concluded unanimously that there was no evidence of a direct threat to national security in the objects sighted. Instances of "Foo Fighters" were cited. These were unexplained phenomena sighted by aircraft pilots during World War II in both European and Far East theaters of operation wherein "balls of light" would fly near or with the aircraft and maneuver rapidly. They were believed to be electrostatic (similar to St. Elmo's fire) or electromagnetic phenomena or possibly light reflections from ice crystals in the air, but their exact cause or nature was never defined. Both

25X1A [ ] had been concerned in the investigation of these phenomena, but David T. Griggs (Professor of Geophysics at the University of California at Los Angeles) is believed to have been the most knowledgeable person on this subject. *del* If the term "flying saucers" had been popular in 1943 - 1945, these objects would

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have been so labeled. It was interesting that in at least two cases reviewed that the object sighted was categorized by [ ] and [ ] as probably "Foo Fighters", to date unexplained but not dangerous; they were not happy thus to dismiss the sightings by calling them names. It was their feeling that these phenomena are not beyond the domain of present knowledge of physical sciences; however.

AIR FORCE REPORTING SYSTEM

It was the Panel's opinion that some of the Air Force concern over U.F.O.'s (notwithstanding Air Defense Command anxiety over fast moving tracks) was probably caused by public pressure. The result today is that the Air Force has instituted a fine channel for receiving reports of nearly anything anyone sees in the sky and fails to understand. This has been particularly encouraged in popular articles on this and other subjects, such as space travel and science fiction. The result is the mass receipt of low-grade reports which tend to overload channels of communication with material quite irrelevant to hostile objects that might some day appear. The Panel agreed generally that this mass of poor-quality reports containing little, if any, scientific data was of no value. Quite the opposite, it was possibly dangerous in having a military service foster public concern in "nocturnal wandering lights". The implication being, since the interested agency was military, that these objects were or might be potential direct threats to national security. Accordingly, the need for deemphasis made itself apparent. Comments on a possible educational program are enumerated below.

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*copy of the Board members*

It was the opinion of [ ] that the "saucer" problem has been found to be different in nature from the detection and investigation of German V-1 and V-2 guided missiles prior to their conventional use in World War II. In this 1943-1944 intelligence operation (ORCUBSON), there was excellent intelligence and by June 1944 there was material evidence of the existence of "hardware" obtained from crashed vehicles in Sweden. This evidence gave the investigating team a basis upon which to operate. The absence of any "hardware" resulting from unexplained U.F.O. sightings lends a "will-o-the-wisp" nature to the HIC problem. The results of their investigation, to date, strongly indicate that no evidence of hostile act or danger exists. Furthermore, the current reporting system would have little value in the case of detection of enemy attack by conventional aircraft or guided missiles; under such conditions "hardware" would be available almost at once.

#### ASSUMPTIONS OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL ORIGIN

It was interesting to note that none of the members of the Panel were loath to accept that this earth might be visited by extra-terrestrial intelligent beings of some sort, some day. What they did not find was any evidence that related the objects sighted to space travelers. [ ] in his presentation, showed how he had eliminated each of the known and probable causes of sightings, leaving him "extra-terrestrial" as the only one remaining in many cases. [ ] background as an aeronautical engineer and technical intelligence

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Officer (Project Officer, BLUEBOOK for 15 months) could not be  
 delighted. Moreover, the Panel could not accept any of the cases  
 sighted by him because they were raw, unevaluated reports.

Extraterrestrial explanations of the sightings were suggested in some  
 cases and in others the time of sighting was so short as to cause  
 suspicion of visual impressions. It was noted by [redacted]

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[redacted] that extraterrestrial artifacts, if they did exist, are no  
 cause for alarm; rather, they are in the realm of natural phenomena  
 subject to scientific study, just as cosmic rays were at the time  
 of their discovery 20 to 30 years ago. This was an attitude in  
 which [redacted] did not concur, as he felt that such artifacts

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would be of immediate and great concern not only to the U. S. but  
 to all countries. (Nothing like a common threat to unite peoples!)  
 Mr. Page noted that present astronomical knowledge of the solar  
 system makes the existence of intelligent beings (as we know the  
 term) elsewhere than on the earth extremely unlikely, and the  
 concentration of their attention by any controllable means confined  
 to any one continent of the earth quite preposterous.

#### IRANIAN, IRAN, SIGHTING

This case was considered significant because of the excellent  
 documentary evidence in the form of Kodachrome motion picture films  
 (about 2600 frames). The Panel studied these films, the case history,  
 AFHQ's interpretation, and received a briefing by representatives of  
 the USAF Photo Interpretation Laboratory on their analysis of the  
 film. This team had expended (at Air Force request) approximately

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1100 man-hours of professional and sub-professional time in the preparation of graph plots of individual frames of the film, showing apparent and relative motion of objects and variation in their light intensity. It was the opinion of the P.I.L. representatives that the objects sighted were not birds, balloons or aircraft, were "not reflections because there was no blinking while passing through 60° of arc" and were, therefore, "self-luminous". Plots of motion and variation in light intensity of the objects were displayed. While the Panel Members were impressed by the evident enthusiasm, industry and extent of effort of the P.I.L. team, they could not accept the conclusions reached. Some of the reasons for this were as follows:

- a. A semi-spherical object can readily produce a reflection of sunlight without "blinking" through 60° of arc travel.
- b. Although no data was available on the "albedo" of birds or polyethylene balloons in bright sunlight, the apparent motions, sizes and brightnesses of the objects were considered strongly to suggest birds, particularly after the Panel viewed a short film showing high reflectivity of seagulls in bright sunlight.
- c. P.I.L. description of the objects sighted as "circular, bluish-white" in color would be expected in cases of specular reflections of sunlight from convex surfaces where the brilliance of the reflection would obscure other portions of the object.

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- C. Objects in the Great Falls case were believed to have probably been aircraft, and the bright lights such reflections.
- D. There was no valid reason for the attempt to relate the objects in the Trenton sighting to those in the Great Falls sighting. This may have been due to misunderstanding in their objective. The objects in the Great Falls sighting are strongly suspected of being reflections of aircraft known to have been in the area.
- E. The intensity change in the Trenton lights was too great for acceptance of the P.H.B. hypothesis that the apparent motion and changing intensity of the lights indicated extremely high speed in small orbital paths.
- F. Apparent lack of guidance of investigators by those familiar with U.F.O. reports and explanations.
- G. Analysis of light intensity of objects made from duplicate rather than original film. The original film was noted to have a much lighter background (affecting relative brightness of object) and the objects appeared much less bright.
- H. Method of obtaining data of light intensity appeared faulty because of unsuitability of equipment and questionable assumptions in making averages of readings.
- I. No data had been obtained on the sensitivity of Kodachrome film to light of various intensities using the same camera type at the same lens openings.

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The "Jettison" frequencies (obtainable from early part of Aramintan film) were not received from the plots of the "single pass plots" at the end of the film.

The Panel believed strongly that the data available on this sighting was sufficient for positive identification if further data is obtained by photographing polyethylene "pillow" balloons released near the site under similar weather conditions, checking WMA flight and reflection characteristics with competent ornithologists and conducting appropriate "C" Service testing upon objects from their apparent landing. It was concluded that the results of such tests would probably lead to creditable explanations of value in an educational or training program. However, the Panel noted that the cost in technical manpower effort required to follow up and explain every one of the thousand or more reports received through channels each year (1,950 in 1964) could not be justified. It was felt that there will always be sightings, for which complete data is lacking, that can only be explained with disproportionate effort and with a long time delay, if at all. The long delay in explaining a sighting tends to eliminate any intelligence value. The educational training program should have as a major purpose the elimination of popular feeling that every sighting, no matter how poor the data, must be explained in detail. Attention should be directed to the requirement among scientists that a phenomenon, to be accepted, must be completely and convincingly substantiated. In other words, the burden of proof is on the sighting, not the explanation.

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

The Panel Members were in agreement with O/SI opinion that, although evidence of any direct threat from these sightings was wholly lacking, related dangers might well exist resulting from

- a. Misidentification of actual enemy artifacts by defense personnel.
- b. Overloading of command reporting channels with "false" information ("noise to signal ratio" analogy--Barbar).  
c. Subjectivity of public to mass hysteria and greater vulnerability to possible enemy psychological warfare.

Although not the concern of CIA, the first two of these problems may seriously affect the Air Defense Intelligence system, and should be studied by experts, possibly under AEC. If U.F.O.'s become discredited in a reaction to the "flying saucer" scare, or if reporting channels are saturated with false and poorly documented reports, our capability of detecting hostile activity will be reduced.

Mr. Page noted that more competent screening or filtering of reported sightings at or near the source is required, and that this can best be accomplished by an educational program.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS OF UNEXPLAINED SIGHTINGS

The map prepared by AFIC showing geographic locations of officially unexplained unexplained sightings (1952 only) was examined by the Panel. This map showed clusters in certain strategic areas such as Los Alamos. This might be explained on the basis of 24-hour watchful guard and

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clusters of activity near or near such locations. On the other hand, there had been no sightings in the vicinity of sensitive related AE establishments while there were occasionally multiple cases of unexplained sightings in non-strategic areas. Furthermore, there appeared to be no logical relationship to population centers. The Panel could find no ready explanation for these clusters. It was noted, however, that if terrestrial artifacts were to be observed it would be likely that they would be seen first near foreign areas rather than central U. S.

RECOMMENDATION TO OPERATE:

The Panel was of the opinion that the present ATIC program to place 100 inexpensive 35 mm. stereo cameras in the hands of various airport control tower operators would probably produce little valuable data related to U.F.O.'s. However, it was recognized that such action would tend to allay public concern in the subject until an educational program had taken effect. It was believed that procurement of these cameras was partly the result of public pressure in July 1952. With the poor results of the year-long Project TWILIGHT program of 24-hour instrumentation watch (two frames of film showing nothing distinguishable), a widespread program of sky-watching would not be expected to yield much direct data of value.

There was considerable discussion of a possible "sky patrol" by

amateur astronomers [ ] and by wide-angle cameras [ ]  
and [ ] pointed out that at present a considerable fraction

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of the sky is unusual has been for many years--under surveillance  
and is often kept in several meteor and aurora observing programs as  
well as sky mapping programs at the various locations listed below.  
The main function of these astronomers is largely directed  
toward identified rather than unidentified objects, no case of any  
unidentified object as known to [redacted] Such  
in [redacted] would certainly be reported if found on patrol plates.

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There was cited where an astronomer refused to interrupt his  
exposure in order to photograph an alleged sighting in a different  
part of the sky. This led [redacted] to say that, if a program of  
watching could be an adjunct of planned astronomical programs, little  
extra would be involved and that the trained astronomical personnel  
might photograph a sighting of an unidentified object.

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The location of some of these programs and their directors are  
believed to be:

- a. Harvard University, Cambridge and New Mexico (meteor patrol) [redacted]  
Wampler.
- b. Yerkes Observatory, University of Chicago and Fort Davis, Texas  
(several programs)--Meinel (aurorae), Kuiper (asteroids),  
Morgan (wide angle camera).
- c. University of Alaska, Fairbanks (aurorae)--Elvey
- d. Dominion Observatory, Ottawa (meteors)--Millman
- e. Palomar Observatory, California (sky map)--Minkowski
- f. Lick Observatory, California (sky map)--Shomo

6-11

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It was agreed by the Panel that no government-sponsored program of optical nationwide sky patrol is worthwhile at the present time, and that the encouragement of amateur astronomers to undertake such a program might have the adverse effect of over-emphasizing "flying saucer" stories in the public mind. However, the issue of radar "escape" courses for recording peculiar radar echoes would serve several purposes, including the better understanding of radar interference as well as identification of U.S.A.'s.

USAR PROBLEM OF MUTUAL INTERFERENCE

This characteristic problem of radar operation wherein the pulse signal (of approximately the same frequency) from station A may be picked up on the screen of station B and show as a high-speed track or source of data was recognized to have probably caused a number of U.S.G. reports. This problem was underlined by information received reflecting ADC concern in solving this problem of signal identification before service use of very high-speed aircraft or guided missiles

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(1955-1956). <sup>One Panel member</sup> [redacted] believed that one answer to this problem was the use of a "Doppler filter" in the receiving circuit. [redacted] suggested that the problem might be better solved by the use of a "controlled jitter" wherein the operator receiving "very fast tracks" (on the order of 1000- 20,000 m.p.h.) would operate a circuit which would alter slightly his station's pulse frequency rate. If the signal received on the screen had been caused by mutual interference with another station, the track would now show itself at a different distance

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from the surface of the screen, if it still appeared at all. [redacted] 1.06  
that such a technical solution was simpler and would cost much less than  
"complex filters".

#### INTERNATIONAL TELETYPE EXCHANGE

Two reported cases were examined: one at Palomar Mountain, California, in October 1949, when cosmic ray counters went "off scale for a few seconds", apparently while a "V" of flying saucers was observed visually; and two, a series of observations by the "Los Alamos Bird Watchers Association" from August 1950 to January 1951, when cosmic ray coincidence counters behaved queerly. Circuit diagrams and records were available for the latter, and  
[redacted] was able quickly to point out that the recorded data were undoubtedly due to instrumental effects that would have been recognized as such by more experienced observers.

The implication that radioactive effects were correlated with unidentified flying objects in these two cases was, therefore, rejected by the Panel.

#### INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

The Panel's concept of a broad educational program integrating efforts of all concerned agencies was that it should have two major aims: training and "debunking".

The training aim would result in proper recognition of unusually illuminated objects (e.g., balloons, aircraft reflections) as well as natural phenomena (meteors, fireballs, mirages, noctilucent clouds). Both visual and radar recognition are concerned. There would be many

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levels in such education from enlisted personnel to command and research personnel. Relative emphasis and degree of explanation of different programs would correspond to the categories of duty (e.g., radar operators; pilots; control tower operators; Ground Observer Corps personnel; and officers and enlisted men in other categories.) This training should result in a marked reduction in reports caused by misidentification and resultant confusion.

The "debunking" of the "secret" would result in reduction in public interest in "flying saucers" which today evokes a strong psychological reaction. This education could be accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures, and popular articles. Facts of such education would be actual case histories which had been puzzling at first but later explained. As in the case of conjuring tricks, there is much less stimulation if the "secret" is known. Such a program should tend to reduce the current gullibility of the public and consequently their susceptibility to clever hostile propaganda. The Panel noted that the general absence of Russian propaganda based on a subject with so many obvious possibilities for exploitation might indicate a possible Russian official policy.

Members of the Panel had various suggestions related to the planning of such an educational program. It was felt strongly that psychologists familiar with mass psychology should advise on the nature and extent of the program. In this connection, Dr. Hadley Cantril (Princeton University) was suggested. Cantril authored "Invasion from

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Ward, (a study in the psychology of panic, written about the famous Orson Welles radio broadcast in 1938) and has since performed advanced laboratory studies in the field of perception. The names of Ben Margolis (University of Michigan) and Leo Rosten were mentioned as possibly suitable as consultant psychologists. Also, someone familiar with mass communication techniques, perhaps an advertising expert, would be helpful. Arthur Godfrey was mentioned as possibly a valuable channel of communication reaching a mass audience of certain levels. [redacted] suggested the U. S. Navy (ONR) Special Devices Center, Santa Point, L. I., as a potentially valuable organization to assist in such an educational program. The teaching techniques used by this agency for aircraft identification during the past war [redacted] cited as an example of a similar educational task. [The Jam Handy Co. which made World War II training films (motion picture and slide strips) was also suggested, as well as Walt Disney, Inc. animated cartoons. [redacted] suggested that the amateur astronomers in the U. S. might be a potential source of enthusiastic talent "to spread the gospel". It was believed that business clubs, high schools, colleges, and television stations would all be pleased to cooperate in the showing of documentary type motion pictures if prepared in an interesting manner. The use of true cases showing first the "mystery" and then the "explanation" would be forceful.

To plan and execute such a program, the Panel believed was no mean task. The current investigatory group at ATIC would, of necessity, have to be closely integrated for support with respect to not only the

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ILLEGIB

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... of "pilot balloons" at different distances  
... weather conditions at the site.

... of one or two psychologists and writers and a subcommittee  
... filming films would be necessary in addition. The Panel  
... that AFIS's efforts, temporarily expanded as necessary,  
... in implementing any action taken as a result of  
... AFIS would be of value  
... both the public educational and service training program envisaged.

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... at least was of the opinion that after public gullibility  
... and the service organizations, such as AOC, had been trained  
... the more readily explained spurious sightings, there would  
... for a very modest-sized AFIS section to cope with the  
... of possible scientific intelligence value. This  
... concentrate on energetically following up (perhaps on  
... of qualified Air Force Scientific Advisory Board members)  
... which seemed to indicate the evidence of unconventional  
... artifacts. Reports of such artifacts would be expected to  
... from Western outposts in far closer proximity to the  
... than Incheon, Korea!

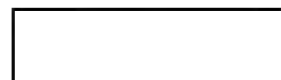
EXTRACURRICULAR INVESTIGATIVE GROUPS

The Panel took cognizance of the existence of such groups as the  
"Civilian Flying Saucer Investigators" (Los Angeles) and the "Aerial  
Research Research Organization (Wisconsin)". It was believed that  
such organizations should be watched because of their potentially

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1. *Chrysomelidae*

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TAD B

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL ON  
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

24 to 27 January 1973

MEMORANDUM

1. Summary-Air case histories of sightings 1951 - 1952 (indicated by [redacted] and [redacted]).

2. [redacted] Report of Project GROUND and Project [redacted] (also name of [redacted] of subject).

3. [redacted] Report of Project GROUND (also name for Battelle Memorial [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] work supporting AFU).

4. [redacted] Report of Sightings at Hickham Air Force Base, New Mexico.

5. [redacted] of USAF Research Center, Cambridge, Mass., Investigation of "Unidentified Flying Object" (Project TWINKLE).

6. [redacted] of Investigation of U.F.O.'s Proposed by Hickham Air Force [redacted] (Project FOLIO).

7. [redacted] [redacted] Film of sightings at [redacted], Utah, 2 July 1952  
[redacted] [redacted], August 1950.

8. [redacted] Report of 19 selected cases of sightings of various  
categories (Formations, Flashing Lights, Hovering, etc.).

9. [redacted] of manual: "How to Make a UFOREPORT", prepared at AFU.

10. [redacted] Showing Plot of Geographic Location of Unexplained Sightings  
in the United States during 1952.

11. [redacted] Showing Balloon Launching Sites in the United States.

12. [redacted] Showing Selected Actual Balloon Flight Paths and Relation  
to Reported Sightings.

13. [redacted] Showing Frequency of Reports of Sightings, 1948 - 1952.

14. [redacted] Showing Categories of Explanations of Sightings.

15. [redacted] [redacted] of Polyethylene Film Balloons in Flight  
[redacted] Showing High [redacted] Activities.

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Dissemination

TAB E

Black and white photograph of subject's right profile showing high reflectivity.

Black and white photograph of subject's U.S.A.R. interest in U. S. Signaling.

Black and white photograph of subject's U.S.A.R. interest in U. S. Signaling.

Black and white photograph of subject's U.S.A.R. interest in U. S. Signaling.

Black and white photograph of subject's U.S.A.R. interest in U. S. Signaling.

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